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John Lowell, Esq., was nominated a Resident Member by the Standing Committee.*

Meeting dissolved.

QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1823.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Jan. 30, 1823,—the members present were, Bowdoin, Clap, Coolidge, Davis, Freeman, Gray, Hale, Harris, Hedge, Holmes, Jenks, Lowell, Mitchell, Pickering, Pierce, Ripley, Shaw, Tudor, Ware, and R. Webster.

JOHN LOWELL, Esq., was elected a Resident Member.

A communication from an Historical Society lately formed at Brunswick, in the State of Maine, was committed to Messrs. SAVAGE, LOWELL, CLAP, HARRIS, and BOWDOIN, to consider the expediency of complying with the request contained in that communication; and, if in their opinion expedient, to report a list of such books and pamphlets in our Library as may be presented to said Society.

Voted, That the stated meetings of this Society, in future, with the exception of the meeting in August, be held at twelve o'clock M.; the meeting in August to be holden at four o'clock P.M., as heretofore.

Holland, Esq., His Majesty's Surveyor-General of Lands for the Northern District of North America, &c., &c., &c."

In one corner of the map the following is written:—

"N. B. This plan was presented to sundry gentlemen at Newburyport by Mr. Holland, surveyor, &c., for which a gratuity was made by those gentlemen. Their names, as recollected by one of the subscribers many years after subscription, are Patrick Tracy, Thomas Woodbridge, Tristram Dalton, John Lowell, Stephen Hooper, Jonathan Jackson, and Nathaniel Tracy, all at that time resident in Newburyport."—EDS.

* Professor Peck, who was chosen a member of the Society in 1792, died Oct. 3, 1822. Notices of him by several writers are in 2 Collections, X. 161-170.—EDS.

Voted, That Mr. Tyng be requested to prepare a memoir of Mr. Peck;* Mr. Tudor, of Mr. Perkins;† Mr. Eliot, of Dr. Rand;‡ and Dr. Harris, of Mr. Palmer,§ — lately deceased members of this Society.

Voted, That the communication from a Geographical Society in France be committed to the President, to report at the next meeting; and, in the mean time, if convenient, to acknowledge the receipt of it.

Voted, That the assessments due from the late Mr. Palmer be remitted.

Voted, That President Kirkland be requested to prepare a biographical notice of the late Ebenezer Parsons, Esq.¶

Voted, That all past fines which may have been incurred for the detention of books beyond the legal time be remitted.

Voted, That the President and Standing Committee be a committee to revise the laws, particularly those relating to the Library, and report such alterations as they may think expedient.

Voted, That all books be returned one week, at least, before the annual meeting.

Mr. COOLIDGE and Mr. HALE were appointed a committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

Theodore Lyman, Jr., Esq., was nominated a Resident Member by the Standing Committee.

Meeting dissolved.

* See note on p. 348. — Eds.

† Mr. Tudor did not write the memoir of Mr. Perkins assigned to him. See note on p. 346. — Eds.

‡ Mr. Eliot failed to prepare the memoir assigned to him. A notice of Dr. Rand, furnished by Dr. S. A. Green, will be found at p. 368 of this volume. — Eds.

§ Dr. Harris failed to discharge this duty. A notice of Mr. Palmer by Rev. Dr. H. M. Dexter will be found at pp. 339–341 of this volume. — Eds.

¶ President Kirkland also failed to write the memoir assigned to him. See p. 287, note †. — Eds.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1823.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, April 24, 1823, — the members present were, Bowdoin, Coolidge, Davis, Freeman, Gray, Hale, Holmes, Jenks, Lowell, Merrill, Pierce, Ripley, Savage, Shaw, Spooner, Spooner, R. Webster, and T. L. Winthrop.

HON. JOHN DAVIS	was chosen	PRESIDENT.
CHARLES LOWELL	„	RECORDING SECRETARY.
ABIEL HOLMES, D.D.	„	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
JAMES SAVAGE, Esq.	„	TREASURER.
REV. WILLIAM JENKS	„	LIBRARIAN.
REDFORD WEBSTER, Esq.	„	CABINET-KEEPER.
JAMES FREEMAN, D.D.	} . were chosen	STANDING COMMITTEE.
THOS. L. WINTHROP, Esq.		
REV. JOHN PIERCE		
WILLIAM TUDOR, Esq.		
FRANCIS C. GRAY, Esq.		

The Committee on the communication from the Historical Society in Maine made the following report : —

The Committee to whom was referred the letter from the Historical Society in the State of Maine, having attended to the subject submitted to them, beg leave to report that, upon examining the books belonging to the Library marked as duplicates, they find that they are such as the Society have been in the habit of exchanging for other books and publications ; and, as this kind of barter has always been considered as not only an accommodation, but of particular utility to this Society, your Committee judge that it would be best to retain them for that purpose. Your Committee have been able to select but few *triplicates*, and these are too inconsiderable for a donation.

We recommend, however, the presenting a set of the Society's publications to the Historical Society in Maine.

(Signed)

CHAS. LOWELL.

E. CLAP.

T. M. HARRIS.

Accepted.

The President, to whom was referred the letter from a Geographical Society in France, made the following report:—

The Société de Géographie of Paris was instituted in November, 1821. The object of the Society is expressed in the first article of the Constitution,—to aid in the advancement of geography, to promote travels to unexplored regions, to award prizes, to keep up a correspondence with learned societies, travellers, and geographers, to publish their works, and to procure the engraving of charts.*

The Marquis de la Place is President of the Society, and Viscount de Chateaubriand is one of the Vice-Presidents. Among the officers and in the list of members we notice some of the most respectable literary characters of France.

The papers transmitted to our Society are the Constitution of the Geographical Society; prizes announced for the year 1822; and a letter, dated the 20th of March, 1822, expressing the purposes and views of the Society, inviting a correspondence, and indicating the subjects on which information would be acceptable.

The reporter would submit to the Society a consideration of the expediency of appointing a committee to prepare an answer to this communication, and to procure such publications, having connection with geographical knowledge, as may be proper for the Society to transmit with their reply to the communication received.

* See Bulletin de la Société de Géographie. Tome premier, p. 3. Paris, 1822. — Eds.

The inquiry is also suggested whether it be not advisable to render this subject a distinct branch of attention by our Society, by the appointment of a committee of the Society for the purpose, as the American Philosophical Society have successfully practised with history. Such a committee might receive associates from the Society or from the community at large; and, a convenient place of deposit being established in Boston, there is reason to believe that the intelligence and activity of our merchants, sea captains, and supercargoes would supply such a deposit with a very respectable and useful collection of charts, journals, and other valuable geographical documents.

All which is submitted.

J. DAVIS, *Committee.*

In pursuance of the recommendation in the above report, the President was requested to prepare an answer to the Society, stating what had been done by this Society, and expressing our cordiality.

Messrs. HALE, GRAY, and BOWDOIN were appointed a committee to procure publications to be transmitted with the letter of the President.

The Committee on the Treasurer's accounts reported that they had found the same well kept, correctly cast, and well vouched, and that the balance in his hands is two hundred and forty-seven dollars and twenty-nine cents.

Messrs. JENKS, LOWELL, SAVAGE, and SPOONER, Jr., were appointed a committee to prepare the first volume of the third series of the Collections.

Messrs. NICHOLS, MERRILL, SPOONER, Jr., and BOWDOIN to prepare an index to the third series.

Messrs. JENKS, HALE, and CLAP were appointed a committee to select and sort for binding such tracts and

pamphlets as they may judge suitable; and to procure to be bound all the newspapers in the possession of the Society which were published previous to the American Revolution.

THEODORE LYMAN, Jr., Esq., was unanimously chosen a Resident Member.

Meeting dissolved.

[Three Resident Members died since the last annual meeting, — James Perkins, W. D. Peck, and Isaac Rand. Notices of Professor Peck have already appeared in the Collections. Memoirs of Mr. Perkins and Dr. Rand here follow. — EDS.]

Memoir of James Perkins.

James Perkins, who was born in Boston on the 30th of March, 1761, was the eldest son of James, the fourth son of Edmund Perkins and Susannah, daughter of Francis Hudson. His mother, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Handasyd Peck, was a woman of remarkable energy and ability. Left a widow, with five daughters and three sons, James, Thomas Handasyd, and Samuel, in 1771, she took her husband's place in the counting-house, actively participated in its affairs, and was so far recognized as a partner that business letters were sometimes addressed to her from Holland with a masculine prefix. She is mentioned in the memoir of Thomas Handasyd Perkins (written by his son-in-law, Mr. Thomas G. Cary) as an active member of many charitable associations in her native city; and a vote passed by the officers of the Boston Female Asylum, which was the special object of her care, is there recorded, to wear a badge of mourning for seventy-one days after her death in 1807, "in token of their high consideration and respect for the virtues of the deceased."

Up to the time of the so-called "Boston Massacre," Mrs. Perkins lived with her children in a house on King, now State, Street, but when it became evident that Boston was to be besieged, she determined to quit the city. The question as to where she should take refuge was happily set at rest by her friend, Squire Bacon, of Barnstable, who, in answer to a letter which she wrote for advice, said: "Come to me. I have a large house, with twenty rooms in it, where you will be warmly welcomed, and find a safe asylum." Having accepted this hospitable invitation, Mrs. Perkins and her family made their way to the Cape at some time between April and June, 1775, during which months, as stated by the Rev. George E. Ellis, D.D., in his chronicle of the siege, no less than twelve out of the seventeen thousand inhabitants of Boston left the city. The same gentleman affirms that, after the evacuation, the exiled inhabitants do not seem as a body to have made great haste to come back to it, "as it was still a place of peril from a vengeful enemy, from disease, and from possible lawlessness."

So long as it remained in this condition, Boston was not a fit place of residence for a widow with young children, and Mrs. Perkins wisely remained at Barnstable until order and health were restored. After her return to town, she found abundant occupation in directing the affairs of her household and the education of her sons and daughters. It was her wish to give to the first the advantages of a collegiate education, but the circumstances of the time made it seem more prudent to fit them to be merchants, and they successively entered the counting-house of the Messrs. Shattuck.

James began business as a merchant, about 1782, at Cape François, in the island of San Domingo, and afterward established a house there in partnership with his two brothers. He spent a portion of the year 1786 at home, and then married Miss Sarah Paine, daughter of Judge Timothy Paine, of Worcester. From this time until peace and prosperity were

destroyed by the insurrection of the slaves in the West Indies, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins resided there with Mr. Samuel Perkins, who has recorded the events of those troublous times in a very interesting Diary, written long afterward, at the request of Mr. Franklin Dexter. The following extracts, made from a copy of this Diary in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, refer to his brother's experiences on the breaking out of the insurrection in the year 1791:—

“My brother James,” says the author, “was then on a visit, with his wife and child, to the Marquis de Rouvry, at his plantation, near Fort Dauphin. The following account, taken from his widow lady, who is still living, may be depended on as fact:—

“‘We had been passing the day,’ says Mrs. Perkins, ‘with the Comte d’Hautoul, on his plantation, and on our return home we had engaged to dine with the Marchioness D’, where we arrived a short time before the hour of dinner, from whence we went forward to the estate of M. Obeluc, who was the procurator of the Plantation Galifet, when the insurrection broke out where he resided. There were in company with us M. Henri de Bellerive and his lady and child, who also came from the Comte d’Hautoul’s. When we arrived at the Plantation Rouvry, we were received by a person who informed us that Madame had gone to a neighboring plantation, but that she expected us to dinner, and would be at home in season. When the lady arrived, she informed us that the whole country was in revolt; that she had been to make inquiries, and had ascertained the fact; that as yet the accounts had not reached her slaves, but it was to be feared that they would soon know what was going on, as there was general alarm, and people were flying in all directions. A council was held as to what course we had best pursue, and it was determined that we should all leave the plantation that night at twelve o’clock for Fort Dauphin. In the evening, a slave passed through the estate, and gave the information to the negroes of the Marchioness, that these fellows were burning and destroying every thing. This was soon known to us by the change of manners among the slaves, who showed their insolence and bravado by their noise and general deportment. We sat down to dinner, however, from a rich service of plate, but we ate nothing to speak of, and the dinner was soon over, and had been passed in silence and gloom. Madame de Rouvry had in her family, then at home, her daughter, a beautiful girl of sixteen; a young lady, her

instructress ; and a lady who had escaped from one of the neighboring estates that afternoon. The Marquis was in the mountains on business. The lady packed up her plate, and the carriages were ordered, just before twelve o'clock, to be got ready and brought to the door. There were evident marks of discontent in the faces of the servants, and some money was necessary to bribe the driver of our carriage to harness his horses and get ready to start. At twelve o'clock, we started in three carriages. The Marchioness, her daughter, and instructress were in the first carriage, with the plate. Myself and child, with Madame de Rouvry and child, were in the second carriage ; and Mr. Perkins, with the lady who had escaped as above stated, were in a phaeton ; and Mr. Baury was on horseback. As we were apprehensive of being stopped, if we met any of the insurgents, the drivers were ordered to avoid a village which lay in our route ; but before the intention was discovered, they had gone so far on the road that we could not turn back without showing them our fears, and it was judged better to let them go on. It had been agreed between Mr. Perkins and Mr. Baury, in case the drivers refused to go on, to put them to death, and to mount the horses and drive the carriages themselves. These gentlemen were both armed, and as all our lives depended on getting to the town, there was no other alternative. When we arrived at the village, the whole community of blacks were up and revelling, the houses filled with lights, the slaves howling and dancing throughout the place. On reaching the middle of the village, Madame de Rouvry's postilion drew up, and, of course, stopped the whole party. We had now no doubt that we were all lost, but it was necessary to keep silent as long as we could, for fear of alarming the blacks by whom we were surrounded, and who were evidently rejoicing over the events of the day. Madame de Rouvry, who was a woman of great courage, and who was much feared by her slaves, ordered the fellow to proceed instantly, or she would have him that moment punished in the severest manner. The man hesitated, but her voice, which he had been accustomed to obey, drove him from his purpose, and we proceeded through the hamlet so quickly that the insurgents, who were all in the houses, dancing and beating drums, never discovered us. The presence of M. Baury, who was on horseback, and armed with a sword, undoubtedly contributed to the decision of the postilion to go on, from fear of immediate death.'

" Had not this party arrived as they did at the Plantation Rouvry, there is no doubt the whole family would have been murdered, as they had no white man to protect them. They arrived, however, safely at

Fort Dauphin, about six o'clock in the morning, to the great surprise of the inhabitants. A gentleman of the place, to whose house they drove, assured them that the fear of the regular troops there was so great, that they could not be persuaded to march into the country even a few miles, such was the general consternation.

"A droger (*sic*) was procured, and the party went on board, and sailed for the Cape, a distance of about forty miles. Mrs. Perkins obtained a mattress, which was spread upon the ballast and stones of this vessel, where she and her child lay down to rest during the passage."

It is not mentioned in the Diary how long Mr. and Mrs. Perkins continued to reside at Cape François after their escape from the negroes, but the following passage shows that they were still there in 1793:—

"From the autumn of 1791 until the summer of 1793 the town of Cape François was besieged by the black army of revolted slaves, and frequent attacks were made on its outposts by the troops of Jean François. The inhabitants of the city were all, even to the foreign residents, obliged to keep a strict guard to prevent surprise. A guard-house was assigned to the Americans, who were obliged to keep a regular watch every night. The guard was commanded by my brother James, and I acted as his lieutenant. We drew our forces from the American shipping, as well as from the residents of the city. The arms and ammunition were kept at our house; and my brother, as captain, was accountable to the Governor or military commander."

This was not Mr. James Perkins's first military experience, for we learn from an obituary notice of him, published soon after his death, and reprinted in Mr. Quincy's "History of the Boston Athenæum," that, when he was a boy, he had "distinguished himself as the commander of a military company, composed of his playfellows, whose manœuvres attracted the notice of the officers of the British garrison, for their soldier-like precision; and," adds Mr. Quincy, "it is worthy of remark that many of the members of this youthful corps became officers of note and merit in the Revolutionary War." That the brothers Perkins were called upon to fill the respon-

sible positions of Captain and Lieutenant of the American "Corps de Garde" in a besieged town shows that they were regarded as men of energy and ability by their fellow-countrymen, who shared their anxieties and dangers.

Either before or after their return to Cape François, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins were saved from death by a faithful negro slave, whom they brought back with them to the United States. Moose, as he was called in the family, received his freedom; but the only use he ever wished to make of it was to spend it in loving service to his former master, and all who were connected with him. He was a great favorite with young and old; and no wonder, for, to the day of his death at an advanced age, their joys and sorrows were his own.

Actively engaged in commercial pursuits, and for many years a resident in a foreign country where books were not easily procured even in peaceful times, Mr. Perkins was throughout his life a constant reader. He was a bibliophile by nature, had a lively appreciation of niceties of style, and was especially well acquainted with the English classical writers. That his literary tastes were recognized at home, before his return from the West Indies, is proved by the action of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in electing him a Corresponding Member, on the 20th of May, 1792. In the records of the Society of that date, he is spoken of as "then of Cape François." Four years later, on the 25th of March, 1796, he was made a Resident Member, and was notified of the fact by the Secretary, through the following letter, extracted from the Letter-book of the Society:—

"TO JAMES PERKINS, Esq.,

"BOSTON, March 28, 1796.

"SIR,—When the Historical Society elected you a Corresponding Member, they supposed your residence would have been the island of Hispaniola. I have it now in command from the Society, at a meeting held last week, to acquaint you that it will be agreeable to them that you should consider yourself a member, and take your place with them at all future meetings, of which you will receive due notice.

"Yours, &c.,

J. B., Corresponding Secretary."

After his return home, James Perkins and his brother, Thomas H. Perkins, became partners in one of the most important mercantile houses in the city, and were chiefly engaged in the trade to the North-west Coast and to Canton. While, as we find it stated in the obituary notice of Mr. James Perkins, already mentioned, "as great a portion of the trade with the first was probably conducted by the Messrs. Perkins as by any other house, it may, perhaps, be safely said that, down to the present time, no private commercial house in the world has been more extensively engaged in the trade to Canton." This extract should not be printed without another which testifies to the perfect integrity and high character of the deceased :—

"It is unnecessary to say that the point of view in which Mr. Perkins's character ought to be surveyed is that of an upright merchant. . . . In the long course of transactions, as numerous and as varied as an individual can easily be connected with, . . . not a shadow of suspicion of any thing derogatory to the highest and purest sense of honor and conscience ever attached to his conduct, and he may be quoted as one of the few who pass through life without spot or blemish."

The following letter from the Hon. George Bancroft to the writer of this memoir speaks of Mr. Perkins in the same strain of eulogy, and is here inserted by his kind permission :—

"WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 4, 1879.

"MY DEAR MR. PERKINS,—From my earliest years I was familiar with the family of your father's parents, and when in college was often made welcome at their family dinner. Mr. Perkins was then at the height of his position as a merchant of Boston. At the time when the people of New England were the most ready to devote themselves to navigation, the prohibitory laws of many of the nations of Europe fettered commerce so much that they found the whole earth not too large for their activity. Young men came from the best families, in near and even in remote country towns, and entered the service before the mast, with a prospect of promotion. The per-

mission given the sailor to take out a little 'venture,' as it was called, of his own, was usually rewarded with most lucrative results, — a profit of one hundred per cent in the voyage not being extraordinary. The ships that I knew most of went out laden with silver, and with goods for traffic with the Indians. They made their way round Cape Horn, and traded on the north-west coast from below the Columbia River as far north as Indian hunters with furs could be found. Small craft were taken round the Horn, so that they could make their way over bars and into the shallow rivers of the interior. When a cargo of furs was obtained, the ship sailed for Canton; and sometimes, before going home, carried on trading voyages between India and China. Sometimes they returned home by way of those few free ports in the north of the continent of Europe into which they were permitted to enter. By steadily carrying on this commerce, which needed a most enterprising, well balanced chief, with high powers of organization, and most faithful, intelligent, and thoroughly trusted officers to conduct the practical parts of the scheme, Mr. Perkins gained his great reputation and fortune.

"He was a man of grave and staid manners, but not stern. There was nothing about him that invited familiarity, but he was always faultlessly polite, and to me always very kind. You have his countenance very correctly given in the family portrait, which Stuart painted. It was not his way to volunteer advice. Once, and I am sorry to say once only, as we sat together after dinner (and I ever looked upon the incident as a particular manifestation of his good will), he turned to me with great seriousness, and spoke to me earnestly and at considerable length on the importance of my becoming well grounded in English literature, — a subject which, at that time, did not form a regular part of the college studies; and I very well remember that of two books to which he especially directed my attention as those which he would make the foundation of the course, one was the 'Lives of the Poets,' by Dr. Johnson; the other, I am sorry to say, I cannot recall with sufficient certainty to name it.

"Thus I answer your inquiries, and remain ever very faithfully yours,

GEO. BANCROFT.

"C. C. PERKINS, Esq."

Public-spirited and charitable, Mr. Perkins administered his fortune in ways which still keep his memory fresh in the minds of his fellow-citizens. His donations to the General Hospital and to the Theological School of Cambridge, his

bequest to the University for the foundation of a Professorship of Mathematics, and, above all, the gift of his house on Pearl Street to the Trustees of the Boston Athenæum, where the Library remained until its growth and the growth of the city made it necessary to remove it to the present building on Beacon Street, are all instances of his wise beneficence and of his solicitude for the bodily and intellectual wants of the community in which he lived.

Having given up his dwelling to the Athenæum, Mr. Perkins built a house for himself, and one for his son, Mr. James Perkins, Jr., on the corner of Pearl and High Streets. In the year 1800, he bought an estate on Jamaica Pond, to which he gave the name of Pine Bank, and there he resided with his family during the summer months. In 1804, he went with his wife to Europe, and, while travelling, kept a careful diary of his experiences for the benefit of his son, whom he had left in America.

The following extracts from that portion of it which relates to his journey through Holland and Belgium to Paris, and to the first few weeks of his residence in the French capital, will suffice to show that he allowed nothing of interest to escape his observation. The historical, artistic, commercial, and political aspects of the countries which he visited, occupied his mind in turn, and the reflections which they suggested were recorded in a lucid and unpretentious style.

In his Essay on Travel, Lord Bacon says that "he who travelleth into a country before he hath some entrance into the language, goeth to school, and not to travel." Granting the truth of this aphorism, Mr. Perkins may be classed among the travellers, for he had not only mastered the French language during his long residence at Cape François, so as to read it with ease and converse in it fluently, but he spoke it with a remarkably good accent.

"ANTWERP, Sept. 22. The day has been employed in strolling about the city, and procuring our passports for Paris. The Cathedral

of Notre Dame is the most pre-eminent building in the city. We have only seen the exterior; to-morrow we propose attending the service. The steeple of the church is four hundred and sixty feet in height, light in its appearance, elegant in its architecture, and esteemed one of the finest spires in the world. The Descent from the Cross, by Rubens, once the boast of Antwerp, and the *chef d'œuvre* of the painter, has been transported from this church to the Louvre, in Paris.

"I am told," he writes on the 24th, "that it has lost half its effect in the Louvre, where the light cannot be so reflected as to exhibit all its perfections. The Antwerpens entertain a hope that the treasure will one day be restored to them."

This hope, as all the world knows, was realized after the fall of Napoleon. After Mr. Perkins's arrival in Paris, he saw Rubens's master-piece among the other art spoils of Europe, and, in referring to it, he indulges in certain reflections which are worth quoting, as showing his preference for the Realistic over the Ideal schools of painting:—

"I have passed," he writes, "a good part of several days in the grand gallery of the ancients, have attentively examined it alone, and have listened to the criticisms and idolatry of professional artists. It is with painting as with music: the more refined and scientific performances enrapture and delight the connoisseur, but the eye and the ear of the unfashioned novice are caught by the more simple and artless copies of nature. I have seen the first painting on earth—the Transfiguration by Raphael—with less emotion than the Descent by Rubens, or the more humble efforts of Gerard Dow. I have yet to learn what is called 'the poetry of the art,' but I fear that I shall never rise above the level of plain Flemish prose. In the latter I discern the great essential of poetry,—the most striking characteristic is truth; and I believe there are few real judges who will sustain that the paintings of Rubens or Rembrandt are destitute of imagination. The Italian school may be compared to a fine epic poem,—the 'Paradise Lost' of Milton; the Flemish, to the 'Deserted Village' or the 'Traveller' of Goldsmith, or, perhaps more consistently with my prosaic ideas, to the simple story of 'La Roche,' or 'Louisa' of Vernoni. The former abounds in subjects which are more sublime, but there is a *mélange* of angels and devils and saints, of which we can form no fixed idea and trace no resemblance, whereas the subjects of the latter

are generally drawn from nature, and are familiar to every one. I might, perhaps, have been more correct if I had likened the simplicity of the Flemish school to the schoolmistress of Shenstone, yet this comparison is too limited for the subject, as the composition and manner of the different artists are extremely various, some of them rising to the energy of Dryden's 'Alexander's Feast,' and others stooping to the vulgarity and caricature of Swift's dressing-room. If, however, there are many common and vulgar subjects among the Flemish paintings, it cannot be denied that they are well drawn, and it is not surprising that the unlearned observer should make profane and odious comparisons."

The route of the travellers from Antwerp to Paris lay through Malines and Brussels. From the latter city Mr. Perkins writes:—

"It would be folly to undertake a description of the works of art which so frequently present themselves in travelling through a country like France. Volumes would be required to do them justice. If you ever visit Brussels, follow our example, and devote a day to the palace of the Archduke. The apartments are numerous, extensive, and richly ornamented. The most remarkable piece of statuary is a Hercules, at the foot of the great staircase. There are four apartments filled with paintings. Among these are the Elevation of the Cross, by Vandyck; the Mutilation of St. Lieven (cutting out the tongue), by Rubens; Virgin, by Raphael; . . . the Martyrdom of St. Blaise, by Crayer, his last picture, painted when he was eighty-seven years of age. In the library there are said to be eighty thousand volumes. Here are a choice collection of manuscripts, and a small cabinet of natural history.

"Sept. 28. We started from Brussels this morning, and arrived at Mons about five,—the distance, thirty-five English miles. The road from Brussels to this place is almost a straight line, shaded by lofty trees, and running through a country beautifully diversified with hills and dales, all in the highest state of cultivation. I have heard this country compared to the environs of Boston, and there is certainly some degree of similitude in the ground. Should our neighborhood continue to advance in the same proportion as it has progressed during the last twenty years, in half a century the comparison may be more just. We have, however, some advantages of which this country

is destitute. It has no water prospect, and its rivers would be considered as mere streamlets in America.

"CAMBRAY, Sept. 29. . . . We stopped a half-hour to see the coal mines of Jemappes. Our postilion pointed out the ground of the celebrated action between the French and Austrians. On the left of the road is a range of hills; on the right, an extensive plain. These hills and this plain, which, eleven years ago, were covered with contending armies, and drenched by the blood of thirty thousand human beings, ravaged and desolated by the hand of war, are now teeming with abundant harvest, and exhibit no vestige of this scene of horror and desolation."

Having suffered from the exactions of the host at Cambray, "we determined in future to learn wisdom from experience, conquer the delicacy which had hitherto restrained us, and bargain with our host as with a Jew pedler. Accordingly, on our arrival at the Soleil d'Or, Chantilly, where we were immediately surrounded by every member of the family, I began my new system of economy, and agreed for our accommodation, or, rather, inquired the price before we alighted; but, unfortunately, my inquiries were too partial; they did not embrace all the items which are usually tacked on as extras to the bill of a French *aubergiste*. On these points I could afterwards say nothing. Our bill was still higher than the last; and I am now convinced that, having no skill to guard against their address, it is cheaper to commit one's self to their mercy than to contend with their talents.

"Oct. 2. From our last night's residence to Paris is about ten leagues. . . . It is now the heyday of the vintage, when every eye is lifted up in gratitude, when at each step music beats time to labor, and when the children of the village rejoice as they bend under the ripened clusters. . . . Never have we witnessed a more interesting sight than the various groups of jocund and happy peasants which thronged this scene of rural festivity."

It required some time for the travellers to recover from "their wonder and astonishment" after their arrival at Paris. Mr. Perkins successively describes the Louvre, the Palais Royal, the water-works at Marly, Malmaison, &c., and thus speaks of the Palais Royal:—

"It is said that there is no want, either natural or artificial, no appetite of the grosser or more refined order, no wish for the cultiva-

tion of the mind or the decoration of the body, no sensual or spiritual humor, which could not here find its gratification and perpetual variety. . . . This place is esteemed one of the greatest curiosities of Paris ; it is the resort of the grave and the gay, the man of business and the loungeur. . . . We have seen too little of this monster to be enabled to judge of its singular properties, and must, therefore, make it the subject of future remark."

Omitting many most interesting descriptions of museums, public institutions, and sights of all kinds, given in the Diary, I shall conclude with a few extracts from the pages devoted to the Abbé Sicard and his Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

"Nov. 13. We went yesterday to the National Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. . . . This philanthropic establishment was set on foot by the Abbé l'Épée, and brought to its present state of perfection by the Abbé Sicard. I had no less a desire to see this great man than to witness the effects of his wonderful talents. This was one of his Monday lectures, to which all strangers may obtain admission, by making previous application and procuring tickets. In the exhibition room are seats arranged in the form of an amphitheatre, affording accommodation to about four hundred spectators.

"We fortunately obtained a front seat, and were so situated as to see and hear every thing which passed. At the appointed hour, the Abbé made his appearance.

"'I have been wanting,' said he, 'to introduce to you a new subject, almost an infant, a little savage, a block of unchipped marble, or, rather, a statue yet to be animated and endowed with intellect. He has received no instruction. I am ignorant of his capacity to imbibe it; but, as this will be our first experience, I am desirous you should witness at once our method and its effect. Poor child! I tremble for his fate. I shall soon be able to judge of his susceptibility, and determine the prospect of his future life.'

"The child was in the crowd, in the arms of his mother. His father, who sat by the side of them, with some difficulty, and the allurements of a bauble, drew him to the stage, on which the Abbé and several of his friends were seated. A large board, painted black, was fixed against the wall. One of the more forward of the pupils, the favorite child, the Benjamin of the venerable preceptor, was directed to begin his lesson of experiment. He drew with chalk on the board the form of a knife, a key, a pair of spectacles, a hat, and a cane. At

the foot of each drawing he placed the article it was designed to represent. The child was taken in the arms of his parent and carried to the board, and the figures shown to him. He regarded them at first with an air of indifference, but in a few moments smiled, clapped one hand to his head, and pointed at the same time with the other to the hat which had been drawn on the board.

“‘Enough,’ said the Abbé, ‘the child may be snatched from the abyss of night, from that insulated and cheerless solitude in which thousands of his unhappy brethren are doomed to suffer.’

“This experiment happily completed, the salvation of the little subject pronounced by the Abbé, and confirmed by the plaudits of the audience, he proceeded to show how the names of the articles described by the painter are best impressed on the mind and memory of the pupil. The letters *c-a-n-n-e* are distinctly written on the figure of the cane, *c-h-a-p-e-a-u* on the hat, &c. These characters are left for the study of the pupil until they are fixed in his memory as other signs for the objects they express. The figures are then effaced, and the letters suffered to remain until they are perfectly understood. This is one of the introductory lessons to the art of reading and writing.

“After the child, the Abbé introduced a young man, to whom he communicated by signs certain newspaper paragraphs, which were correctly written on the blackboard before the audience.

“‘Speaking of music,’ said the Abbé, ‘you no doubt recall the answer of the celebrated blind man, Sanderson, when he was asked to what he could liken the color of scarlet. He replied: “To the sound of a trumpet.” A gentleman of great literary merit, who attended one of my lectures, desired me to ask of my pupil what was his conception of the sound of a trumpet. I remarked to him that the deaf could have no idea of sounds, that the question might excite uneasiness and embarrassment, which I always desired to avoid. He, however, persisted, and requested that the experiment might be made. I proposed it, and this was the answer: “I can explain my idea of the sound of the trumpet only by comparing it to those florid and effulgent rays which illuminate and adorn the horizon after the setting sun.” . . . When asked what is eternity, he said: “It is a day without a yesterday or a to-morrow.”’

After the young man had left the stage, the Abbé introduced a young deaf and dumb girl, “about fifteen years of age, of an interesting physiognomy, and dressed with extreme neatness.” He then showed by various experiments how persons in her condition could be communicated with through what in our day is called *visible*

speech; and afterwards said: "The first impression which I endeavored to stamp on her infant mind *was the conception of a God*. In proportion as I advanced in my exertions, she became more and more transported, and when I at last fully succeeded in conveying an idea of the attributes and existence of our all-bounteous Parent, she threw herself on her knees, lifted her hands and eyes for a moment in an attitude of adoration, and then, springing from the ground, attempted to leave me. 'Whither are you going?' said I. 'To find my father and mother,' was the reply, '*and to tell them there is a God.*'"

After his return from Europe, Mr. Perkins remained at home until 1817, when he went to the West Indies for a few months, both for business purposes and for the benefit of his health. In 1821, he relieved the Trustees of the Athenæum of their difficulty as to the provision of a suitable building for the Library, by offering them his house in Pearl Street for that purpose. His motives, says Mr. Cary, as expressed in the deed of conveyance, were "a consideration of the importance of the diffusion of knowledge to the liberty and happiness of any community, and of the beneficial effects of public libraries and reading-rooms to promote this important end," and also "a special regard to the Boston Athenæum, which was founded, and has been hitherto supported, on these principles." A lecture room and some other additions were made to the new Athenæum building after his death, toward which his brother and his son gave eight thousand dollars apiece, on condition that a like sum should be raised by private subscription within seven months. One of the rooms contained a valuable collection of casts, presented by Mr. Augustus Thorndike. The Fine Arts department of the Athenæum, which thus originated, organized interesting exhibitions of works of art for a long series of years, and only resigned its functions when the Museum of Fine Arts, to which it liberally transferred its collections, was ready to receive them, and give them a wider field of usefulness. The quiet, modest, and retiring nature of Mr. Perkins led him to

shun notice as much as possible. He was one of those men who make themselves felt by the warmth which they shed around them, while hiding, as far as possible, the source from which it proceeds. Beloved by all who knew him intimately, and highly esteemed for his liberality and public spirit by his fellow-citizens, he died at his country place, Pine Bank, after a short illness, which his somewhat feeble constitution was not able to resist, on the first day of August, 1822.

A vote was passed at a meeting of the Athenæum Trustees, called immediately after his decease, expressive of their sorrow at that event, and declaring that "they are deeply impressed with the great and numerous services which that distinguished gentleman and merchant had rendered to the community at large; and, in particular, they shall always remember with peculiar gratitude and delight that act of remarkable munificence to which this institution is indebted for its present spacious and splendid accommodations." Furthermore, the Trustees attended Mr. Perkins's funeral, and appointed a committee to cause a portrait of their benefactor to be copied by Gilbert Stuart from the original portrait in the possession of Mrs. Perkins.

C. C. P.

Notice of Isaac Rand, M.D.

Isaac Rand was the son of Dr. Isaac and Margaret (Damon) Rand, and was born at Charlestown, on April 18, 1743. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1761, where he took high rank for scholarship. While yet an undergraduate, he displayed a good deal of taste for mathematics, and in his senior year was one of two students who accompanied Professor Winthrop to Newfoundland, to observe the transit of Venus across the disk of the sun. After graduation, he studied medicine, at first with his father, and afterward with Dr. James Lloyd, a distinguished physician of the last century. He began the active practice of his profession in

Boston in the year 1764, where he soon attained eminence. A few years later, when the Revolution broke out, his sympathies were with the Crown, and, like many persons of that period, he thought that the efforts of the colonists to separate themselves from the mother country were premature. During the siege, when most of his professional brothers were serving on the popular side, he remained in Boston, where he had an extensive practice among all classes.

He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in the year 1781, and always took a deep interest in its welfare. He was its President during six years, — from 1798 to 1804, — besides filling other offices at different times. He contributed two papers to the Society, which were printed in its Transactions. In the year 1804, he delivered the first annual address given before it, which was reprinted in 1853, by a vote of the Councillors. It was published in exact *fac-simile*, under the careful supervision of our late associate member, Dr. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff.

Dr. Rand was a close student, and through life kept up his acquaintance with the classic authors. He read them with ease, and they were ever near at hand for reference or study. He was always distinguished for the practice of the Christian virtues, and during many years was connected with the Church. He was chosen a member of this Society on July 19, 1798, and died Dec. 11, 1822.

S. A. G.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Aug. 26, 1823, — the members present were, Freeman, Hale, Homer, Jenks, Lowell, Saltonstall, Savage, Shaw, Spooner, Jr., and Tucker.

Voted, That the price of the tenth volume of the second series be two dollars.

Voted, That the additional Hutchinson papers received this day from the Secretary of State be referred to the Publishing Committee.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Nichols for his valuable labors in arranging the Hutchinson papers, and in preparing a vocabulary from the Cotton manuscripts.

Voted, That Mr. Savage be requested to correspond with Samuel Williams, Esq., of London, on the subject of the Hutchinson papers.*

Samuel Williams, Esq., was nominated a Corresponding Member by Mr. Savage.

Meeting dissolved.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Oct. 30, 1823,—

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a list of donations, and letters from Admiral Coffin and George W. Erving, Esq., signifying their acceptance of their election as Corresponding Members.†

* By Hutchinson "papers" was intended the manuscript of his third volume.—Eds.

† The following is the letter of Admiral Coffin received at this time:—

"LONDON, 16th June, 1823.

"SIR,—Being deeply engaged at present in my Parliamentary duties must plead as my apology for the brevity of this letter.

"On the receipt of yours, dated the 20th December, 1822, I set on foot an inquiry, and soon after met Mr. Sabbatier, possessing the documents you so much want. He being in correspondence with Mr. Williams on the subject, leaves me nothing more to add than my hope you will soon have a satisfactory result.

"In accepting the honor conferred upon me by the Massachusetts Historical Society, I shall endeavor to fulfil the expectations that may have been formed

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, Esq., of London, was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.

Mr. SAVAGE communicated a letter from Rev. John Hutchinson, of Great Britain, respecting an additional volume of Hutchinson's History. Referred to the Committee who now have this subject under consideration.

Meeting dissolved.

QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1824.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Jan. 29, 1824,—the members present were, Bowdoin, Clap, Davis, Freeman, Hale, Holmes, Jenks, Harris, Pierce, and Savage.

In the absence of the Secretary, Dr. HOLMES was requested to take minutes of the proceedings.

List of donations was communicated.

of my humble efforts to serve the country that gave me birth, trusting the Society will make due allowance for the numberless defects incident to a profession little calculated by taste and study to add to the literary and civil history of our country.

"At all events, the few years that are left me shall be passed in endeavoring to contribute all in my power to the prosperity of the town of Boston and State of Massachusetts.

"With many thanks for the obliging manner you have been pleased to make known to me the honor conferred on me, I remain, Sir, your obliged humble servant,

ISAAC COFFIN, Admiral.

"ABIEL HOLMES, Esq., &c."

The Mr. Sabbatier referred to was a connection of the Hutchinson family, and some of the correspondence relating to the third volume of the History, in manuscript, so frequently mentioned in the records, was conducted by him.—
EDS.